

JAN 13 2006

## AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1 – 5 (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Presented) A method for generating a focused image of an object from an optical imaging system, the method comprising:
- providing a plurality of images of the object, each image having a focus setting;
  - defining a plurality of image regions, each of the plurality of image regions corresponding to a location on the object;
  - measuring a sharpness score for each image region of at least two of the plurality of images;
  - determining a spatial weighting for the image regions using the sharpness score; and
  - computing a composite image of the object by combining each of the plurality of images using the spatial weighting.
7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6 wherein the step of defining a plurality of image regions further comprises:
- determining a set of focus regions on the surface of the object; and
  - aligning at least one focus region in at least one of the plurality of images.
8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6 wherein the at least one of the plurality of image regions overlaps an adjacent image region using a fuzzy transition.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the fuzzy transition is a function employing one of the set comprising sigmoid, gaussian and linear.
10. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the set of focus regions have a fuzzy transition.
11. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the fuzzy transition is a function employing one of the set comprising sigmoid, gaussian and linear.
12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6 wherein the plurality of image regions comprises a greyscale image map.
13. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the step of providing a plurality of images further comprises:  
determining a coarse focus position.
14. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the step of providing a plurality of images further comprises:  
determining a coarse focus position; and  
acquiring a plurality of images at an incremental focus setting.
15. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the object is a fiber optic cable end face.
16. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein the set of regions are annular.
17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6 wherein the step of measuring a sharpness score further comprises:  
transforming each of the image regions of the at least two of the plurality of images so as to provide a plurality of spatial frequencies of the image regions;  
measuring a density of high spatial frequencies; and

using the density of high spatial frequencies so as to provide a sharpness score.

18. (New) The method of claim 6 wherein at least one of the plurality of image regions corresponding to a location on the object is defined such that the entire region will be in focus in at least one focus setting.